

and a locality within three miles of the centre of Doncaster. Further afield, larvae were taken at Skipwith Common, near Selby, at Laughton Forest, North Lincs., and in a few parts of North Notts. There seemed good reason to believe that the species was well established and in no danger of a serious decline in numbers. Such is wishful thinking!

In subsequent years friends visited Doncaster and district to collect larvae of the Scarce Vapourer, among them the late Baron Charles de Worms, who spent a weekend with us. He was delighted to see the handsome larvae in the wild as previously he had reared only larvae supplied by others. In those years of plenty also some other friends tried hopefully to obtain pairings of *O. recens* and *O. antiqua*, but as far as I am aware they had no success. In this respect it should be remembered that the two species normally appear at different times. My own experience has led to the conclusion that in this area of Yorkshire *O. recens* is only single brooded, the moths appearing mainly in the second half of July while *O. antiqua* is on the wing (males only) in late August and September. South refers to *O. recens* being double brooded, but I have seen no proof of this — at least in the wild. Incidentally, of course, *O. recens* passes the winter in the larval stage, hibernating while small, but ova of *O. antiqua* normally remain unhatched until the spring.

More recently the well known lepidopterist, Sir Cyril Clarke, had hopes of obtaining pairings of *O. recens* and an allied species from Japan, but in spite of strenuous efforts we were unfortunately unable to find any larvae of *recens* to help in the experiment. Newly emerged females of the Japanese species were also sent to me by Sir Cyril for assembling, but they failed to attract any males of *O. recens*.

Unfortunately, at the present time *O. recens* is obviously rare in its old South Yorkshire haunts — even if it now exists at all! In spite of more careful searching this year, 1980, by myself and friends, our efforts have so far been unrewarded. Those who study lepidoptera are usually aware of the fluctuations in numbers of many species from year to year, so we must hope that the Scarce Vapourer will again become less scarce. In conclusion let me add that I would welcome comments on this note, especially any that might refer to the present status of *O. recens* in other parts of Britain. — GEORGE E. HYDE, 26 Warrington Drive, Bessacarr, Doncaster, S. Yorkshire DN4 6SS.

THE THADEUS W. HARRIS AND SAMUEL H. SCUDDER PAPERS. — Harris (1795-1856) and Scudder (1837-1911) were two of the most significant and influential nineteenth-century American entomologists, and their work needs no elucidation here. As the location of their papers is not generally known even in the United States, and because both had extensive and important British and Continental contacts, as was usual in that period of extensive trans-marine communication (with many exceptions, American entomology was still partially dependent on the work of European taxonomists), a brief comment on

these collections of manuscripts will be useful to both overseas and American workers.

The major portions of both collections are now in the Museum of Science, Science Park, Boston Massachusetts, having come there as part of the holdings of the Boston Society of Natural History. Historically, that Society's treasures of manuscripts and books were scattered far and wide, so that some of Harris' and Scudder's materials are found in other libraries, such as the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard; the Houghton Library, Harvard; and even such relatively small collections as my own.

The Harris Papers in the Boston museum are in 22 bound volumes and supplements, and include notes and drawings of various orders; MS. lectures and papers; production materials for his most important work, *A treatise on some of the insects of New England which are injurious to vegetation* (1841 and a number of later eds.); lists of exchanges of insects; indices of insects described by Thomas Say and others; notes on Say's descriptions of insects; miscellaneous mss. and drawings; and extensive correspondence. The latter is especially interesting as in this pioneer period Harris had to seek out, as did Say, the decisions and opinions of British and continental workers. Surely the most interesting correspondence of this sort is with Edward Doubleday (see for example that which establishes the priority of the important events in the history of "sugaring", *Entomologist's Rec. J. Var.* 88:23-25). E. Doubleday's important entomological correspondence is sparse enough in collections that this accumulation alone is of interest. Some of Harris' letters in edited form, have been published in *Entomological Correspondence of Thaddeus William Harris*, ed. S. H. Scudder (Boston, 1869), but despite Scudder's impeccable credentials as an entomologist, the original correspondence must be consulted for accuracy.

Scudder's own papers (about the equivalent of 13 shelf feet) are presently unorganized in the Boston repository and are contained in file drawers. There is extensive correspondence (9 feet) with American, British and continental scientists and others. Because of Scudder's interest in the history of entomology, his correspondence has a retrospective view as well as contemporary significance; for example, he investigates the origins and activities of the London entomologist John Abbot (1751-1840 or 41) in America, but of course the bulk of his letters concerned his massive work in nineteenth-century entomology and palaeontology. Other Scudder materials include lists of insects; diaries; miscellaneous notes; production materials for and copies of his works with emendations and additional observations; many drawings and photographs; and cuttings. Until final arrangement of Scudder's papers the total amount of significant overseas material will not be known. However, a project is now under way which will hopefully make both the Harris and Scudder Papers available on microfilm.—Dr. RONALD S. WILKINSON, The American Museum of Natural History, New York 10024.